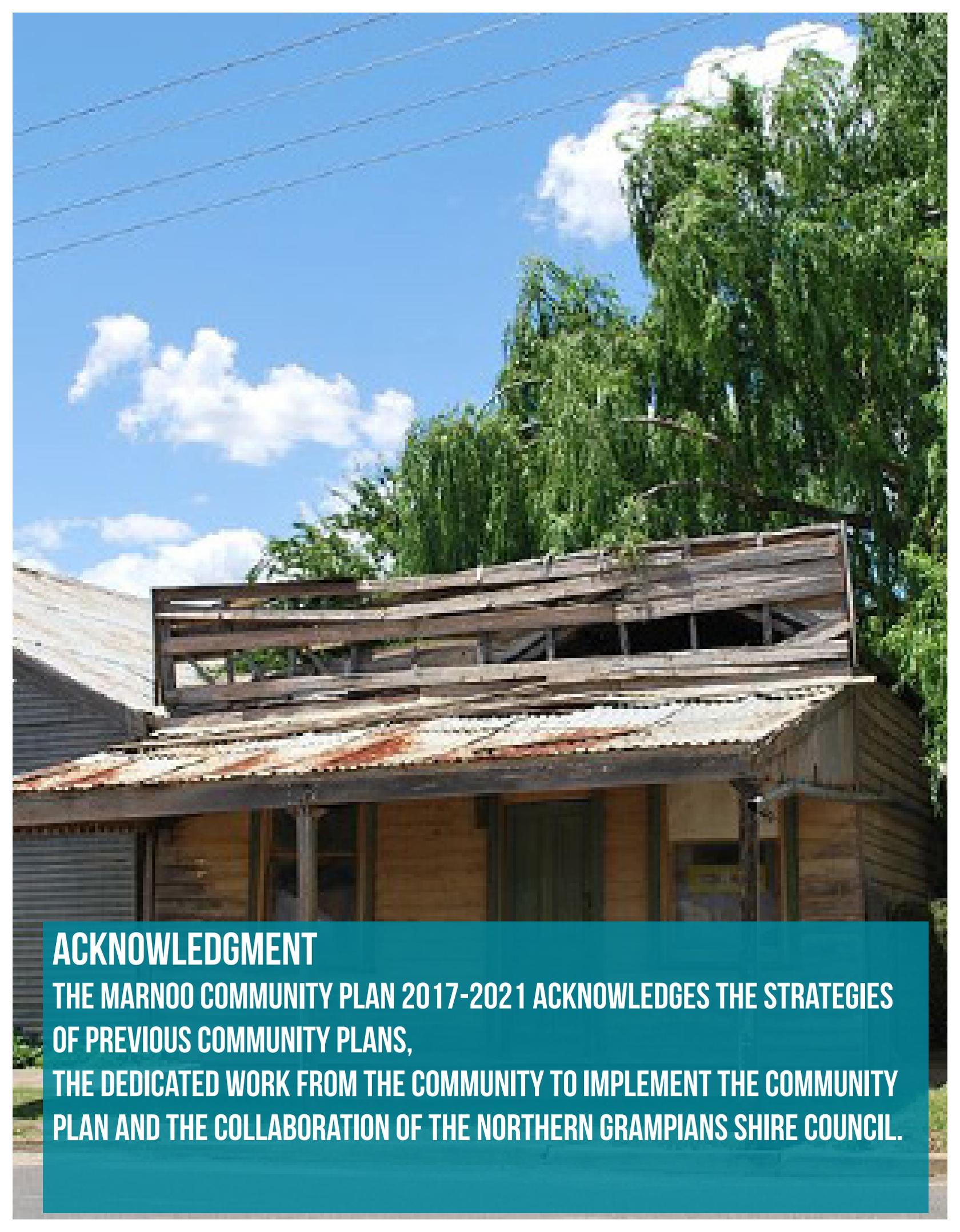


MARNOO COMMUNITY PLAN

2017-21





ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THE MARNOO COMMUNITY PLAN 2017-2021 ACKNOWLEDGES THE STRATEGIES OF PREVIOUS COMMUNITY PLANS, THE DEDICATED WORK FROM THE COMMUNITY TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMUNITY PLAN AND THE COLLABORATION OF THE NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL.

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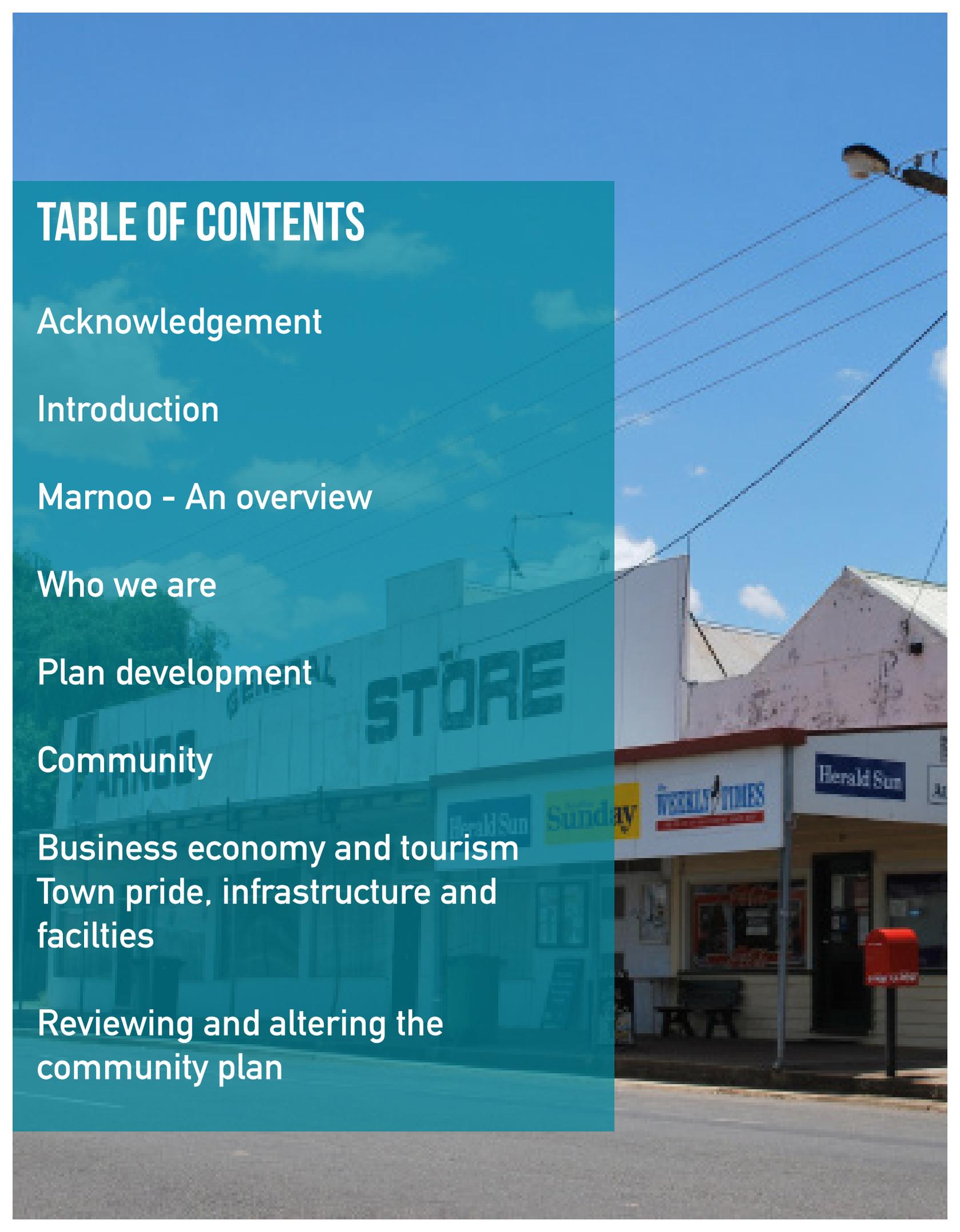
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INTRODUCTION

Communities throughout the Northern Grampians Shire (NGS) have been supported to develop a Community Plan.

Community planning brings local people together to decide how they want their community to evolve.

Each Community Plan is a unique living document that acts as a community resource used to drive action and advocate for the community's needs.

The Plan acts as a lever to attract and secure financial support and partnerships across all tiers of government, non-government, private businesses and a range of community organisations.

A Community Plan belongs to the community it serves. It can be changed, updated and adjusted as the community sees fit.

In October and November 2016, Council worked unity meeting with Marnoo residents to create the 2016-2021 Marnoo Community Plan. This is the third Community Plan for the Marnoo Community, with the previous plan spanning 2009 – 2013.

Some notable achievements have been reached since the implementation of the previous plan.

These have contributed towards achieving the Marnoo Community Plan Vision.

These include;

- The installation of a Telstra tower in June 2016 in close proximity to the CFA fire station. This tower has enhanced mobile phone coverage and improved services for remote residents.
- Grain Storage Facility Southern Ark was built in late 2015. It employs six full-time staff during harvest and one staff member during the off-peak season. The Southern Ark was an estimated \$2 million agricultural development for Marnoo.
- New CFA fire station built in 2014.
- Marnoo Pool has remained open.
- A new toilet block, including a shower, has been built.

MARNOO

Marnoo is situated at the junction of the Wimmera Highway and the Donald Stawell Road, with a population of approximately 80 people within the town and 200 people in the surrounding local district (Census 2011). The township is approximately 50km north of Stawell, 40km west of St Arnaud, 40km south of Donald and 90km east of Horsham





Marnoo is in the heart of the Wimmera and is well known for producing merino sheep and broad-acre cropping.

There are a range of facilities and services available for locals and visitors including the cricket ground, tennis courts, golf club, swimming pool, playground, public toilets, information shed, nature walk and wetland.

There is also the Marnoo Primary School, a craft group, book club, CWA and Navy Blues Supporters Group.

Businesses vary from agricultural supplies and services to engineering, construction, importing farm machinery and grain storage, a

general store with post office as well as a popular antique shop.

The Marnoo community and economy is influenced and built on the agricultural industry within the district.

Marnoo has also established self-sufficient recycling within the town. This unique service supports the environment and generates income for the community.

Marnoo is an active community, running a variety of events such as the Marnoo Open Garden Day, a Good Friday Appeal event to raise funds for the Royal Children's Hospital, a Christmas event, end-of-year school concert and regular sporting events.



PLAN DEVELOPMENT

All of the activities listed within the plan are designed to achieve three key aims:

- Encourage families to stay in the area
- Attract new families to the area
- Retain and create local job opportunities.

In developing the Community Plan, participants identified a number of community needs and issues and articulated strategies to address these. The strategies have been divided into the

interlinked themes of;

- Community
- Business and Economy
- Town Pride, Infrastructure and Facilities.

To achieve the Marnoo Vision Statement a number of the strategies identified can only be achieved through partnership and investment by Local, State and Federal Governments, and private business.

MARNOO COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTICIPANTS

Nineteen Marnoo community members attended the two planning meetings held in October and November 2016 with a broad cross section of the community represented.

MARNOO VISION

'A progressive modern community retaining and improving existing facilities, services and community values.'

COMMUNITY

Need/issue	Strategies	Benefits	Stakeholders	Timeframe
Retain the Marnoo Primary School	The community will continue to support the Marnoo Primary School and promote its services to the wider population.	The Marnoo Primary School is an asset for the town as it provides a unique and local education for local children. The school provides employment opportunities. Local school facilities may attract new families to the community. A local school provides the opportunity for parental involvement in schools without the need to travel long distances.	Marnoo Community Marnoo Primary School principal Marnoo Primary School Council Marnoo Primary School Parents and Friends Group	Ongoing
Keep the pool facilities open and install solar heating	Pool committee to apply for relevant grant funding to install solar heating system. General pool maintenance; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of salt chlorinators • Replace tiles and paint pool • Replace piping. 	A pool is an important facility within Marnoo to support health, wellbeing, active recreation and community activity. A well maintained community pool is beneficial in encouraging families to move or stay in Marnoo.	Marnoo Pool Committee Marnoo Primary School NGSC Landmate Crew (via Project Platypus)	Ongoing - ASAP Winter 2017

COMMUNITY *continued*

Need/issue	Strategies	Benefits	Stakeholders	Timeframe
<p>Retain visiting Health Services in the Marnoo community</p>	<p>Continued promotion of the services within the community to ensure sustainability of service.</p> <p>Continuation of funding for the services from parent organisations.</p>	<p>A range of Allied and Community Health Services are offered on a regular basis in Marnoo. Retaining these services provides equality and access with essential health services for existing residents of all ages.</p> <p>Access to Health Services reduces the impact of rural isolation.</p> <p>Accessible Health Services will attract new comers to the community.</p>	<p>Stawell Regional Health (Allied Health Services)</p> <p>Grampians Community Health</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Reduce social isolation</p>	<p>Community groups to continue delivering a range of community events and sporting activities.</p> <p>Encourage new comers and friends to attend events and activities.</p> <p>Provide support to community groups organising events and activities.</p> <p>Participants discussed the possibility of a community bus for transport to surrounding towns for a social night out.</p>	<p>There are many residents/families that are 'new faces' within the community. Participants acknowledged that living rurally was often isolating and can be lonely. Providing and retaining social events is an important way for community members to connect, improve mental health and will help attract new residents.</p>	<p>Marnoo Pool Committee</p> <p>Cricket Club</p> <p>Tennis Club</p> <p>Hall Committee</p> <p>CWA</p> <p>Book Club</p> <p>Golf Club</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

COMMUNITY *continued*

Need/issue	Strategies	Benefits	Stakeholders	Timeframe
Mental Health	Participants discussed including information on where to seek mental health assistance in the Marnoo Community Newsletter.	Looking after the mental health and wellbeing of community members is important, particularly given the variable climate conditions experienced over the past few years. Participants discussed the stigma often attached to seeking assistance with mental health concerns, and that a range of drought support events had been delivered during 2016.	Community Newsletter	As required
Communication with Northern Grampians Shire Council (NGSC)	Timely and relevant information regarding NGSC matters to be provided for inclusion in the Marnoo Community Newsletter.	Clear communication of relevant information and updates from NGSC helps keep residents informed of the latest information	Community Newsletter NGSC	Ongoing
Community Notice Board	Spring clean of community notice board	Relevant and up-to-date information can be seen clearly on the community notice board.	Marnoo community Leah Cameron	Short term

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

Need/issue	Strategies	Benefits	Stakeholders	Timeframe
<p>Fixed wireless</p> <p>National Broadband Network</p>	<p>Community members to express their desire for the same internet services as their city counterparts to local government councillors and federal member of parliament</p>	<p>Fast and cost-effective internet services are essential for the day-to-day running of businesses within the Marnoo community.</p> <p>The internet is used widely in education both within the local primary school and online adult education courses. NBN can also</p> <p>improve health outcomes with many city-based specialists offering Skype appointments with rural and isolated patients, or those that cannot access transport to major cities.</p>	<p>Community members</p> <p>Local Government Councillors</p> <p>Federal Member of Parliament</p>	<p>As required</p>
<p>Business advice and financial counselling for local businesses</p>	<p>NGSC to provide timely and relevant information on business advice and financial counselling services for inclusion in the Marnoo Community Newsletter.</p>	<p>Providing business advice and financial counselling is a proactive way of supporting businesses in the region to stay alive and healthy, and helps to address the closure of local businesses and services and therefore population decline.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Short term</p>

TOWN PRIDE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

Need/issue	Strategies	Benefits	Timeframe	Timeframe
<p>Encourage and support the clean up of private properties in Marnoo</p>	<p>Approach NGSC to investigate hard-waste collection services multiple times per year.</p> <p>Council to continue working with residents to enforce clean ups where possible.</p> <p>Residents to clean up vacant blocks.</p>	<p>Create a more attractive, neat and tidy appearance and environment.</p> <p>Create a more inviting streetscape for tourists and new residents.</p>	<p>Marnoo community</p> <p>NGSC</p> <p>Leah Cameron</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Road maintenance in the lead up to the 2016 harvest</p>	<p>Community members to log road maintenance requests with council,</p> <p>NGSC to undertake regular inspections and maintenance of roads and roadsides. Community would like to meet with council staff annually to discuss local road maintenance requirements.</p>	<p>Keep roads and roadside safe for traffic, particularly heavy traffic over the harvest season.</p> <p>Reduce grass fire fuel loads</p>	<p>Marnoo community</p> <p>Harvest contractors</p> <p>Local business</p> <p>NGSC</p> <p>Vic Roads</p>	<p>2018</p>

TOWN PRIDE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES *continued*

Need/issue	Strategies	Benefits	Stakeholders	Timeframe
Limited amount of information available to tourists and visitors regarding local attractions and the history of the area	<p>Development of a local attractions and history brochure.</p> <p>Marnoo community to draft the content of the brochure.</p> <p>Northern Grampians Shire Council to provide graphic design and printing support.</p>	<p>Attract more tourists to the region, supporting economic diversity.</p> <p>Recognition of wider area and local community</p>	<p>Marnoo community</p> <p>Visitors and tourists</p> <p>NGSC</p>	2018
Ongoing maintenance and upgrades of public spaces	<p>Memorial Hall;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Septic system repairs, • Repair of uneven cement surface at hall entrance, • Flag pole replacement/ powder coating, • Purchase of a PA system, • Stage curtains (currently hard to open and close), • False ceiling on stage to reduce sound travel. 	<p>Provide safe access to public spaces. Improve and upgrade existing facilities to meet with a growing diversity of uses.</p>	<p>Marnoo community</p> <p>Marnoo Memorial Hall Committee</p>	ASAP

REVIEWING & ALTERING THE COMMUNITY PLAN

Participants at the five-year Community Planning meeting agreed to review and update the plan after two and a half years.

The residents of the Navarre community own the Community Plan. Alteration to the plan requires public process to change any part already adopted at previous public meetings.

This public process ensures that all community groups have an opportunity to assess changes at any time and to authorise any alterations to strategies as a result of changes to community interests or circumstances.

It is also the responsibility of the community to initiate the strategies they have identified within the plan, and seek support where required.